

Heber, R.D.1. Utah
July 28, 1961

Dear Mr. Mortimer;

At a meeting last Tuesday, when we were going through pictures, Lethe Tatge asked if anyone could remember if an article had been turned in on the lumbering industry in our county. I thought I had, but since remembered I gathered the material for "Under Wasatch Skies." So Lethe said to send it in to you for we must have a good article on this industry in the book and names of the mill owners.

Because Brigham Young sent the first two men scouting for timber, up through the Weber and over into the Provo River country is how the lumber business was developed in this county and still continues. It instigated the building of the first Provo Canyon road also. I believe there is the black picture of Dave Thacker and his oxen still in that box of black pictures. He has worked in the timber much of his life until late years when he raises beef.

I am sending my hand written material. The girl who types it for me is ill. I want both back, please, for I want to keep them. I know you will take good care of them.

Hope you and family keep well in this terrific heat.

Sincerely,

Julia M. Anderson

Gathered by Julia M. Anderson
for "Under Wasatch Skies"

Lumbering

Peter Shirts one of the first saw mill men name is still carved on trees in the head of Hobble Creek.

In early days a Forman had a saw mill at the head of Daniel Canyon, Forman Hollow now and a Noakes had a shingle mill at what is Shingle Hollow now.

Patrick H. McGuire had a saw mill at what is now McGuire canyon in Daniels canyon before moving to the head of the South Fork of the Provo River, in the early 1880's where he established his mill to be the first one in that region. Henry Alexander moved his mill there from the Lake Creek section. John Watkins and sons and John Turner established mills here. William Widdison sawyer.

C. David Thacker relates that the boiler at the Henry Alexander mill blew up killing Alexander's son and also told of a fire that swept close to his father's shingle mill. How his mother and all the children along with bedding and their supplies were put out in the middle of a small swamp so they wouldn't burn while the men back-fired to try to stop the blaze. *They were successful. He remembers how the fire jumped the hollow & started a new blaze* in the tops of the trees in squirrels nests and ~~fungers~~ growth.

Charles Thacker had the contract to log at the McGuire mill he had ten head of oxen. Charles Thacker and the Campbell Bros. put up shingle mills run by steam and the Henry Clegg mill was run by water power. Later Thacker set up a shingle mill. Here they used a steam boiler to steam the blocks of

wood till they were hot and soft as cheese. The very choicist timber was picked out for making shingles. Straight grain and no limb knots, Shingles were made only from Engleman spruce trees, because those trees had the most sap. Steaming would make the wood tough--would last 50 years. All the timber was sawed with a drag saw into 16 inch lengths, the length of the shingles, then quartered with an axe, the heart of the wood was taken out which prevent the shingles from splitting.

At the Clegg mill which was run by water power a fellow fired an old steam box into which the prepared blocks were put for a day and night to get them ready for cutting. Shingles were cut with a big knife run by a shaft under steam power. The table holding the block was made so the cutter could move the block back and forth to make the thick butt and thin edge and yet keep the block even. It required five men to run a shingle mill and all worked hard, long hours. Took four girls to bunch the shingles. Sat on sawdust piles all day, and some times far into the night by camp fire light for this work. Some bunches were Sarah Bethers, Maria and Emma Christensen; Olive and May Duke, Minnie Miller, Elizabeth Campbell, Jennie McNaughtan and Phenie Peterson, Emma and Rachell Price cooked.

Timber was free for use then for there were no forest reserves. No mills were allowed in the Strawberry country because it belonged to the Indians at that time. However the government had a water sawmill below Sugar Springs where lumber was sawed and hauled to Fort Duchesne to construct the buildings there.

The roads were built to these groves by the lumber men. Rough, dusty roads with steep pitches where a log had to be dragged behind to help brake the load. In the very early days oxen were used but horses were faster and better on hauling. Oxen were sometimes used in the late fall but their feet got tender and they had to be shod. Oxen were ideal in the timber tho, for they could get over the trees and brush without snagging themselves, there was no harness to catch onto things just one chain and no lines. They could go through the brush anywhere and push it over. Used two or three yoke of oxen on a cart for logging and hauled the timber full length.

Oxen were wise and tractable. Dave Thacker relates how Homer Fraughton Sr. was trying to get the trash cleared away from a log to get the chain under the log and fastened to haul the log out. The log rolled onto him and pinned his leg. Fraughton laid there and talked to his oxen bringing them around so he could reach the chain which he hooked with a rolling hitch and with more talking to the oxen they rolled the log off him and he wasn't hurt. Oxen know their names and gee and haw which gave them directions to go.

Arthur Watkins Sr. , Senator Watkins father drove oxen for the Watkins mill. Herb Clegg was logger for the Clegg mill and John Thacker and John Penfold drove Charles Thacker's oxen.

The timber was always cut with an ax. ~~Cross-cut~~ saws were not available and the trees were logged up with the ax. Choppers became very expert. Eli Gordon, Jr. was an outstanding chopper. 2000 feet of lumber was a good days chopping for

a man with an ax. Cut the trees down in the morning and logged them up in the afternoon. Logging up is cutting the branches off and now-a-days cutting into lengths.

The lumber was used to do most all the building in this valley and many haulers from Provo came for lumber also.

On the Wallsburg side and at the head of Hobble Creek in Springville canyon, William Nuttall of Wallsburg had a saw mill and Elijah Averett had a shingle mill. Most of this lumber was hauled to Springville over extremely steep roads.

J.R. Murdock had a water power mill in Charleston. Will Widdison was the sawyer at this mill and he also was sawyer for F.H. McGuire at the head of the Provo.

It took strong, willing men who braved every kind of danger to open up this valuable resource in Wasatch County.

Some Kinds of Forest Products

Trees from forests provide thousands of wood, chemical, and other products that people use every day. Wood products include lumber and plywood. Chemical products, such as charcoal and paper, are made from wood by various chemical processes. Other forest products include nuts and turpentine.

WORLD BOOK Illustrations by David Cunningham

Wood Products

Round timbers

Lumber

Plywood

Particle board

Hardboard

Chemical Products

Lacquer

Cellophane

Paper

Charcoal

Other Forest Products

Maple syrup

Turpentine

Rosin

Nuts